



HB 4049
Testimony in Opposition
Before the
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
February 4, 2026

Co-Chairs Helm, Owens, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4049.

The mission of the Oregon Ground Water Association is to promote sustainable groundwater development and management for maximum beneficial use without waste or contamination. Organized in 1949, the Association has sought to encourage responsible stewardship of the groundwater resource with its leadership in industry education and legislation.

The Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA) is a nonprofit membership organization composed of water well constructors, well pump and water treatment contractors, hydrogeologists and engineers, manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, and other various trades engaged with the groundwater resource. From these various disciplines, we have the benefit of receiving many perspectives on proposed legislation.

The OGWA has reviewed the proposed -3 amendments and wish to add our support to your endeavor to encourage and promote voluntary agreements for groundwater users within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area. We acknowledge that such agreements are necessary, given the groundwater declines within the basin, but appreciate that HB 4049 is permissive in nature.

It makes sense to place approval of these agreements with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and we further support the bill's specificity and direction to the OWRD, as this is a complex issue. The OGWA encourages the Committee to support HB 4049, including the adoption of the -3 amendments, and we thank you in advance for your careful consideration.